

## On His Way

It took a 10,000-mile round-trip journey and four years of living in a poor village in Ghana (Africa) for New York native Divine Asante to begin transforming his life. Now a freshman aeronautics major and Oscar Ritchie Scholar, he aspires to be a professional airline pilot.

But when he was 11 years old, his parents sent him to live with his grandparents in Ghana because of his behavioral problems.

“My parents were kind of tired of me,” Asante says. “They wanted me to do better, so they decided I should go to Africa because things are stricter there compared to America. It was a good experience overall. I got to learn more about my culture, and I met some great people and made some great memories. I learned more about myself, and I changed and grew as a person. I became a little more humble; I appreciate things a little more.”

Life in Ghana was eye-opening, Asante says. Not only was the food and environment quite different (he had encounters with snakes, scorpions and lions), but school was a lot stricter than in America.

“If you don’t do your homework and you end up turning it in late or not at all,



RAMI DAUD, BA '20

the teachers will whip you,” he says. “They take out their cane and they just beat you. It was scary, especially for someone like me who is not used to that kind of discipline.”

Asante says he came to Kent State because it was affordable and the right distance from his parents’ current home in Cincinnati—not too near and not too far.

Though he struggles, like most freshmen do, with the adjustments to college life (workload, time management, sleep deprivation), he says his experience has

been pretty good so far. When he’s not studying, he enjoys playing basketball, working out at the Tri-Rec Center, participating in Bible studies with NEO Impact and pursuing his passions in art, drawing and painting.

“My favorite class so far is psychology,” Asante says, “because of how the human brain works—and human behavior is pretty interesting.”

—April McClellan-Copeland

## New Zoom Room at Kent State University at Geauga



TOM DIEDERICH

Beginning fall semester 2020, the Kent State at Geauga Campus in Burton has a second Zoom Room to provide remote instruction. Students taking remote courses can be taught via their laptops by an instructor who lectures from one of the Zoom Rooms on

campus. This technology has been invaluable in the transition from face-to-face courses to remote instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Zoom Rooms provide cost savings throughout the Kent State system. Students at Kent State Geauga can attend a course offered at another Kent State campus via the Zoom Room, and students at other Kent State campuses can take Kent State Geauga’s Zoom courses.

Funding for the new Zoom Room was provided by a \$20,000 grant from the Cleveland Foundation’s Lake-Geauga Fund, half of which is being used for financial support for students experiencing hardships during the pandemic.

“Without the grant support of such forward-thinking partners, we would be less able to prepare for these anticipated needs,” says Angela Spalsbury, PhD, dean and chief administrative officer, who requested funding for Kent State Geauga’s additional Zoom Room last spring. “We are deeply grateful for their commitment to local students’ success during this difficult time.”